

**From:** Steve Rovell  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/22/02 11:57am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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I have faxed this to you as well.

Steve Rovell

January 20, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing in regards to the Microsoft antitrust case. Let me begin by saying that I do not agree with everything that Microsoft has done, but I understand that in a capitalist economy, the market will choose who is granted success. There may be issues of the antitrust case that have merit, but we should fix these problems and move on. The longer this case goes on, the more that lobbyists' concerns are put before the end users.'

The Department of Justice and Microsoft have reached a settlement agreement that has already been approved by nine states. This settlement is both fair and reasonable, and the fact is that under the settlement, Microsoft will grant computer makers new abilities to reconfigure Windows to access non-Microsoft software. For software companies, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating systems products. This will make the software more efficient, and, as mentioned, the hardware makers will be able to access it easier. That will spur competition.

It doesn't make sense to spend scarce resources on issues that have already been resolved. This case has been harmful to the economy and has forced the industry leader to turn their focus from innovation to litigation. It is time to resume business as usual. Let the competitors compete and the leaders lead. The consumers should decide what companies will succeed, not the government.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Rovell  
Chief Information Officer

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